



# Building Bridges to Better Health

Cook County Department  
of Public Health  
Cook County Bureau of Health Services





## Mission Statement



*To protect and promote health  
and to prevent illness, disability and  
premature death among all residents of  
suburban Cook County.*



## Who We Are



*John H. Stroger, Jr., President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners*

The Cook County Department of Public Health is the state certified public health agency for suburban Cook County exclusive of the cities of Chicago, Evanston, Skokie and Oak Park and Stickney Township where state certified public health departments are operated by the local unit of government. CCDPH serves the people of its jurisdiction from four district offices, as well as many community and mobile sites. CCDPH is the official agency of county government that strives to meet the public health needs of its citizens through effective and efficient disease prevention and health promotion programs.

CCDPH is one of seven affiliates of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. The Bureau's seven affiliates include the Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County, Cermak Health Services of Cook County, Cook County Department of Public Health, The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County and Provident Hospital of Cook County. The scope of healthcare services provided ranges from preventive and primary care, prenatal care, communicable diseases and environmental health to long-term care, rehabilitation and geriatric medicine. The Bureau is a leader in innovative health programs that target those diseases and conditions that disproportionately impact the populations that it serves, such as: asthma, diabetes, HIV AIDS, trauma, cancer, high risk pregnant women and babies. ■

*Building bridges  
means creating new partnerships  
and strengthening  
old relationships...*



## A Letter from the Chief Operating Officer



Welcome to the Cook County Department of Public Health 2003 Annual Report, *"Building Bridges to Better Health."*

How do we construct the bridges to better health in suburban Cook County? We do so through a multi-step process that requires us, first of all, to meet with our communities. Building bridges means creating new partnerships and strengthening old relationships with municipal leaders, businesses and organizations. And, building bridges means initiating and promoting health services to the underserved while we engage the community at large in the work of public health.

Among our accomplishments in 2003:

- Our Community Preparedness and Response Unit created new partnerships with first responders and community leaders to develop plans for any emergency in suburban Cook County — from responding to natural disasters — to unforeseen intentional acts.

- The effects of tobacco and second-hand smoke cause thousands of deaths and illnesses yearly. Our efforts included community coalition building to make the public aware of the dangers of smoking.
- To prevent more cases of West Nile virus, we sent our Environmental Health Services staff to neighborhoods to survey areas where the virus was most prevalent in 2002 and to inform homeowners of steps they could take to eliminate mosquito breeding in 2003.
- Our Health Promotion Unit created the South Suburban Regional Coalition to address the second leading cause of preventable deaths in the U. S. — obesity.

Simply put, our mission as a local health department is to improve our community's health. Our job is to provide vital health services and programs to all suburban Cook County residents. We will continue to work hard to build those bridges connecting us to the community as we continue to honor our mission to prevent illness and death in suburban Cook County.

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Chief Operating Officer



Ruth M. Rothstein, Chief  
Cook County Bureau of Health Services



...the CCDPH WIC Breastfeeding Initiative was a recipient of an Illinois Department of Public Health award

## Integrated Health Support Services — WIC

### INTEGRATED HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- Mothers who fulfilled program goals of the Targeted Intensive Prenatal (TIP) Case Management Program in Harvey and Maywood were awarded seven cribs for successfully completing the program. TIP provides health information, home nursing visits, referrals to community services and incentives such as maternity clothes, nursery items and baby toys to mothers at high-risk of delivering low birth-weight babies.
- The Illinois Department of Human Services recognized the CCDPH WIC program for its outstanding breastfeeding program. The program was lauded for encouraging the initiation and continuation of breastfeeding. WIC supports and encourages mothers to breastfeed their babies to help protect both mother and baby from illness.
- Thirty teen mothers graduated from high school in 2003 thanks to support provided by the Teen Parent Program. The program guides and encourages pregnant and/or parenting teens to complete high school, helps students focus on career goals and provides assistance with social and health services.

**W**omen, Infants and Children, or WIC, is a national nutrition education program for pregnant women, new mothers and young children. WIC's goal is to reduce health risks for children by providing mothers with coupons to buy healthy foods, information about nutrition and health, support for breastfeeding and assistance in finding health care and other community services.

The CCDPH WIC program, the second largest in Illinois, encourages mothers to breastfeed their infants. For the mothers, breastfeeding minimizes post-pregnancy complications, as well as long-term risks for breast cancer; at the same time providing the most complete source of nutrition for infants. Because breastfeeding protects babies from a variety of illnesses, such as diarrhea and infant botulism, breastfeeding reduces health care costs. WIC case managers instruct mothers on how to properly breastfeed their babies and also provide new mothers with breast pumps to express their milk.

In 2003, the CCDPH WIC Breastfeeding Initiative was a recipient of an Illinois Department of Public Health award for encouraging women to breastfeed their babies and for provid-



ing continuous support, assistance and guidance throughout the breastfeeding experience. The breastfeeding program is a perfect example of what can be gained for life by providing essential health services before birth.

Depending on participation, eligible pregnant women may receive WIC services up to one year after the birth of the child, and children can remain active recipients of WIC benefits up to five years of age.

Available at 13 sites throughout suburban Cook, CCDPH WIC services are dedicated to improving pregnancy outcomes, ensuring that every child born in suburban Cook County begins life with the highest hopes of becoming a healthy adult. ■

### IHSS CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

#### Delay in Subsequent Pregnancy Program

Average Monthly Caseload 31

#### Family Case Management

Average Monthly Caseload 17,401

#### Targeted Intensive Prenatal Case Management

Average Monthly Caseload  
 Harvey 65  
 Bellwood/Maywood 80

#### Healthy Families

Average Monthly Caseload 82

#### Problem Pregnancy

Average Monthly Caseload 19

#### Teen Parenting Program

Average Monthly Participants 164

...CCDPH performs vision screenings  
on thousands of children  
in schools and daycare programs



## Integrated Health Support Services — Vision and Hearing



Childhood is a time to learn and to explore. For children who suffer from hearing or vision loss it can be a time of confusion. According to statistics from the Society to Prevent Blindness, one in four school-age children have vision problems. More than a million school-aged children have a hearing loss that can significantly impact speech and language development and education. Very often, these problems go unnoticed because neither child nor parent recognizes there is a problem.

That is why CCDPH provides screenings for hearing and vision — to detect any problems before they can seriously impact a child's life.

Each year, CCDPH performs vision screenings on thousands of children in schools and daycare programs. Children who fail two screenings are then referred for a follow-up vision exam by an eye care professional. Unfortunately, many families do not have insurance coverage or the financial means to obtain eye exams and eyeglasses if prescribed.

Thanks to a partnership among CCDPH, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Society to Prevent Blindness, children in need of vision care are given exams, glasses

and financial assistance. In 2003, 46 clinical exams were given to children in need, with 42 receiving assistance with payment for eyeglasses.

As with vision, hearing tests are important because very often children, as well as parents, are unaware that there is a problem. Screenings can identify children most likely to have hearing impairment that may interfere with development, communication, health and education. School age children with even minimal hearing loss are at risk for academic and communication difficulties.

The majority of hearing problems in children are reversible with treatment as the two most common causes of hearing loss are ear infection with fluid and wax build-up which causes obstruction of the ear canal. If a child fails a hearing test, a referral is made to an ear specialist for an otological exam and an audiologist for a more comprehensive hearing test. If further treatment is needed, a counselor from the Division of Specialized Care for Children will assist the family with medical and financial needs. The clinics are a joint effort of the Illinois Department of Public Health, DSCC and CCDPH. In 2003, 58 children were referred to an ear specialist for follow-up testing. ■

### INTEGRATED HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

#### Client Clinic Visits

Adult Health Client Clinic Visits	425
Ambulatory Care Client Clinic Visits	2,296
Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention	
Participants Screened	1,238
Family Planning Client Clinic Visits	16,505
Flu Client Clinic Visits	5,502
Immunization Client Clinic Visits	18,115
Mobile Van (Wellness on Wheels)	
Client Visits	759
Pneumococcal Client Clinic Visits	501
Prenatal Client Clinic Visits	3,318
Primary Care Client Clinic Visits	1,343
Prostate Cancer Prevention	
Participants Screened	324
Refugee Health Services	
Participants Screened	200
Refugee Client Clinic Visits	172
School/Pre-school Vision Tests	31,709
School/Pre-school Hearing Tests	30,994
Women, Infants and Children	
Case Management	
Average Monthly Caseload	25,390
Client Clinic Visits	97,779

#### Day Care Services

Day Care Consultations	170
Day Care Inspections	311



To bridge the gap  
between services and accessibility...

## Dental Health Services

### DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- To reduce the number of suburban Cook County residents affected by oral cancer, Dental Health Services established a Cook County Oral Cancer Task Force comprised of representatives from the federal, state and local levels.
- Through a partnership with CEDA Head Start, children and families participating in Head Start received preventive and restorative dental care.
- Dental Health Services participated in the American Dental Association's first annual, *Give Kids a Smile Program*, working to provide free dental care to qualifying children.

Dental Client Clinic Visits 10,959

**Dental Sealant Program**  
Sealants Placed 11,476

The Cook County Department of Public Health is committed to providing dental health services for children. Unfortunately, not every child has the opportunity to access these services, creating a disparity between prevention efforts and a healthy outcome. To bridge the gap between services and accessibility, CCDPH initiated a school-based sealant program in 1983. It was the first of its kind nationwide.

The *Preventive Dental Health School-Based Sealant Program*, which celebrated 20 years of service in the fall of 2003, is a traveling dental service that provides sealants and prevention services for children at schools throughout suburban Cook County.

In 2003, the dentist's chair was brought to classrooms in 24 school districts where 10 to 15 children per school received complete dental examinations, as well as referrals to other health programs. By taking services directly to those otherwise unable to receive care, the school-based sealant program is a novel way of meeting the public health needs of children.

Dental sealants, plastic coatings for teeth that act as decay barriers, are easily applied by a dentist during a regular exam. Providing sealants to



prevent tooth decay is one of the first steps to ensuring good oral health. In many cases, tooth decay can be the first sign of malnutrition, drug abuse or domestic violence.

Sealants are only one part of a complete exam that includes a cleaning, fluoride treatment and if needed, referrals for other health services. The benefits achieved in a single appointment can have a lasting effect on a child's overall health. ■



*Lead...is found in over 80 percent of all homes built before 1978*



## Lead Poisoning Prevention Services



Most parents work hard to keep their children healthy and protected. That's why the news of a lead-poisoned child can be devastating. In many cases there are no visible symptoms of illness or any indication that the child has lead in the blood. But lead poisoning can slow a child's development and cause lifelong learning and behavior problems.

Lead, a toxic metal now prohibited from production in home goods in the United States, is found in over 80 percent of all homes built before 1978. Deteriorating lead-based paint, lead dust and contaminated soil remain the most common sources of childhood lead exposure. Young children eat, chew and suck on lead-painted surfaces they can reach, like window sills

and railings. Dirt and dust sometimes have lead in them, as do the fumes and dust stirred up during home renovation. Children under the age of six are at highest risk for suffering severe damage from lead exposure because their bodies are still growing. The only way to know for sure if a child is lead-poisoned is through a blood test.

In the last decade there have been dramatic improvements in reducing lead in the environment, but there are still nearly one million U.S. children with elevated blood lead levels — about 18,000 in Cook County.

CCDPH is working to meet the goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the United States by 2010. Our Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit (LPPU) administers the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program, which helps families with lead poisoned children and/or property owners who are cited for lead hazards on their property. The program assists property owners in reducing and/or eliminating lead hazards from the immediate environment and aids in reducing the blood lead levels of the child(ren) exposed to those lead hazards.

For the 2003–2005 grant cycle, CCDPH made \$5.2 million available to governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations for the administration of lead hazard reduction programs. In all, 186 units were serviced throughout Cook County through the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant program. Grant recipients included the City of Chicago, City of Evanston, City of Oak Park and Community and Economic Development Association Inc. (CEDA).

The CCDPH LPPU is dedicated to combating lead hazards throughout Cook County. ■

### LEAD POISONING PREVENTION SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit successfully completed its first grant cycle for the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program. This program is designed to assist property owners with the abatement and mitigation of lead in their homes, thereby reducing the exposure to lead hazards in Cook County. In 2003, the CCDPH LPPU administered the distribution of \$5.2 million dollars to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations, who in turn were able to service 186 units.
- Home Depot in Broadview and the Lead Unit teamed up during June, July and August to present lead hazard information for shoppers.

#### Lead Education and Outreach

Workshops, Presentations and Community Events	40
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#### Prevention Services

Children Tested	22,527
Children with Elevated Blood Levels Requiring Follow-up	192

#### Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program

Homes Having Lead Levels Reduced	186
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*...dedicated to protecting suburban Cook County residents from second-hand smoke*

## Tobacco Prevention and Control

### TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CONTROL SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- A toolkit on maintaining smoke-free campuses was developed by Tobacco Prevention staff and was distributed to all suburban Cook County schools. The kits included information on strengthening and enforcing tobacco-free school policies.
- Cook County QuitNet, a free online quitting resource for suburban Cook County residents logged an average of 2,000 visits per month and registered 585 new users.
- All smoke-free restaurants in suburban Cook County were honored with recognition certificates for protecting employees and customers from the health risks associated with exposure to second-hand smoke.

#### Cook County Quitnet

Registered Users in 2003	585
Online Visits per month	2,000

Respiratory illnesses, ear infections, asthma, lung cancer...these are but a few of the realities associated with second-hand smoke. Most people consider second-hand smoke a nuisance, but few realize the real danger.

CCDPH Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit is dedicated to protecting suburban Cook County residents from second-hand smoke by working with communities to reduce exposure in the workplace, home and car. The "Take It Outside!" campaign was developed in 2001 to raise public awareness about the dangers of exposure to second-hand smoke and increase the number of smoke-free environments in suburban Cook County.

A variety of methods including advertising, community presentations, educational materials, coalition development and a smoke-free business program are used to educate residents and businesses about the benefits of a smoke-free environment and the risks associated with second-hand smoke.

It was a year of progress for clean-indoor air efforts in Illinois and the "Take It Outside!" campaign. Both Skokie and Wilmette passed the first smoke-free clean-indoor ordinances in the state, eliminating smoking in all workplaces. Fulfilling the campaign mission to develop coalitions, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit organized residents and community organizations from the Arlington Heights Smoke-Free Coalition. This group continued to make great strides for a smoke-free Arlington Heights by gathering community support, educating residents, advertising in the local newspapers and giving presentations.



The Unit also distributed certificates to 100-percent smoke-free restaurants in recognition of their efforts to protect both patrons and workers from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. In addition, ceremonies were held with local officials in Park Ridge, Melrose Park, and Maywood to acknowledge restaurants in communities that are 100 percent smoke-free.

The "Take It Outside!" campaign worked to educate residents about the health effects associated with exposure to second-hand smoke and helped to increase the number of smoke-free environments in suburban Cook County. ■

...building bridges to  
better, safer education...



## Violence Prevention Services

The classroom is no longer a place of purely academic pursuits. Strong language and acts of aggression by students are disruptive to the teaching process, causing teachers to focus on the subject of violence rather than reading, writing and arithmetic. Through PAX (Good Behavior) games, CCDPH Violence Prevention Specialists are building bridges to better, safer education in the classroom by teaching positive interaction skills to students and instructors.

The Pax Game, a behavior management tool used in conjunction with daily lesson plans is intended to decrease classroom disruptions and promote a positive classroom environment.

Research conducted over the past 30 years has shown a decreased likelihood in involvement in substance abuse and juvenile delinquency for students receiving Pax instruction as well as more active involvement in the classroom due to decreases in disturbances.

The game is intended to be played during regular instructional time. For example, if the teacher is in the middle

of a lesson and finds that the students are distracted and disruptive, the teacher may choose to start the game immediately. When the teacher notices a "spleem," or a disruption, a mark is placed by the student's team on the "spleem chart." The team with the least number of spleems at the end of the day is awarded a prize.

In 2003, teachers who used PAX games in their classrooms reported a 50 percent decrease in disruptions and a 25 percent increase in teaching time. During the school year, the program reached over 1,200 students in grades K-4 in Districts 88 and 89.

By fostering a classroom environment that supports and rewards positive behavior, CCDPH is giving instructors the tools to help students work amicably with others. ■

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fathers Action Network, a family oriented program promoting responsible fatherhood, presented to approximately 100 fathers at the Crossroads Adult Transition Center in their after-care program. The CATC assists offenders to transition back to their communities.
- Teens Learning to Choose, a program that teaches adolescents how to form healthy dating relationships, provided presentations to 1,700 students in suburban Cook County Districts 88, 89 and 209.

### Fathers Action Network

Participants 660

### Safe Schools/Healthy Students

PAX Games

Students Participating  
Classroom Version 1,053  
Lunchroom Version 252

Teens Learning to Choose  
Students Participating 335





...we were able to immunize those  
who needed protection the most,  
*bridging the gap*  
between illness and good health

## Communicable Disease Control Services

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- CCDPH hosted the 2003 Communicable Disease Conference featuring presentations on HIV Surveillance and Prevention, SARS, Syphilis Elimination and infection control issues.
- Investigation of 493 central nervous system infections resulted in four cases of West Nile virus. Since the 1975 outbreak of St. Louis encephalitis, human arboviral surveillance is part of the CCDPH mosquito-borne illness control plan.
- CD staff investigated several suspect cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Although no positive cases were detected, CCDPH created a SARS Preparedness Plan, to respond to any outbreaks of the highly infectious disease.
- *CD Update*, a newly created newsletter for infectious disease professionals, rolled off the press in 2003. The *CD Update* is sent to hospitals and health departments to inform them of CCDPH CD activities. The newsletter is also available on our website: [www.cookcountypublichealth.org](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org).

Every year millions of people are affected by the flu, a common infectious illness that causes fever, cough, sore throat and fatigue. As common as flu is, it can be a serious illness for the very young, elderly and people who have weakened immune systems. In fact, the flu is blamed for up to 40,000 deaths and over 100,000 hospitalizations yearly in the United States.

To minimize illness and death, CCDPH promotes and encourages immunization against the flu through a yearly public awareness campaign that includes radio, television, the print media and community outreach. Our normal flu vaccination program is heavily promoted between October and December, when CCDPH generally immunizes about 3,000 residents and provides 9,000 more doses to community organizations, municipal health departments and health-based agencies, such as the American Lung Association.

In the late fall of 2003, widespread flu affected the western U.S., causing a number of deaths, surprisingly, in young children. As stories about the illness dominated broadcast and print media and the number of infected people in our area rose, demand for the vaccination increased.

Concerned that a large outbreak could spread to the suburban Cook County area, immunization staff made

sure that additional vaccine for adults and children was available. CCDPH secured over 4,000 extra doses of injectable vaccine, as well as Flu-Mist, a nasal vaccine.

CCDPH vaccinated as many people in a two-week period as it normally would in two months. Hundreds of people lined up at CCDPH clinics to receive vaccinations: 835 people at our North District site in Rolling Meadows on December 12, and over 700 people at our South District clinic in Markham on December 16. Throughout that time, CCDPH collaborated with county and municipal first responders, including Sheriff's Police and local law enforcement to ensure the safety of residents entering clinics.

Even though flu is not a reportable disease, CCDPH Communicable Disease staff stepped up surveillance efforts and monitored hospitals, physician offices and schools to evaluate the onset, progression and decline of the flu outbreak.

Through an agency effort that involved Nursing, Communicable Disease, Community Preparedness, Health Education and Public Information units, as well as state and local health departments, we were able to immunize those who needed protection the most, bridging the gap between illness and good health. ■

### REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

AIDS	124	Hepatitis A	38
HIV	176	Hepatitis B	
Chlamydia	5,586	Acute	23
Giardia	102	Carriers	586
Gonorrhea	2,403	Measles	1
Syphilis		Pertussis	12
Congenital	0	Meningitis/Bacteremia	
Early	33	H. influenza	20
Foodborne Illness		N. Meningitidis	13
Complaints	139	Streptococcus Pneumoniae	206
E. Coli O157:H7	15	West Nile (meningitis/encephalitis/ West Nile fever)	11
Salmonella	312		



...outreach brings testing to those who might not otherwise seek it...



## HIV / AIDS Prevention Services



Outreach efforts are an integral part of the work conducted by the HIV prevention team. Through a collaborative partnership among CCDPH and 15 community-based organizations, a network of free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling service sites are provided for people who may be at high-risk.

Bringing testing sites to the people enables the prevention team to tightly target those who might not seek testing on their own. Testing is provided at places that are familiar and convenient — such as gay bars, methadone treatment programs and feeding sites. By offering prevention services at commu-

nity sites, the prevention team increases HIV awareness and makes testing comfortable and familiar to clients.

Every clinic visitor receives a pre-test counseling session, HIV swab testing and post-test counseling which provides information and resources for protecting themselves and others from disease. In addition, clients in need of further medical care are able to obtain referrals to CCDPH health clinics, community support groups, insurance programs and private physicians.

In 2003, CCDPH HIV services provided counseling and testing to 533 individuals — nearly 100 percent received their services at outreach sites in the community. Because outreach brings testing to those who might not otherwise seek it, more than 500 people became aware of their HIV status and gained the ability to protect themselves and others. ■

## STD SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Syphilis Elimination Initiative, a program designed to combat rising syphilis infection rates, expanded outreach to targeted communities via community-based organizations. CCDPH aids these organizations by providing testing, counseling and partner notification services and encouraging people who test positive to seek treatment.
- To protect those at high-risk of acquiring preventable disease, STD prevention programs were enhanced by the implementation of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B immunizations in CCDPH clinics.

### HIV PREVENTION SERVICES

HIV Test Counseling Sessions	3,970	HIV Care Services Average Monthly Caseload	236
HIV Prevention Group Attendance	3,347	HIV Anonymous Testing Client Clinic Visits	1,323
Prevention Case Management Sessions & Risk Reduction Counseling Sessions	5,614	Sexually Transmitted Diseases Client Clinic Visits	8,565



...teaching residents to take early prevention measures

## Environmental Health Services

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- Environmental Health staff ensured the safety of more than 40,000 spectators at the U.S. Open Golf Tournament in Olympia Fields by inspecting more than 80 food vendors at the event.
- Environmental Health, in conjunction with other CCDPH units, invited local municipalities and the four Mosquito Abatement Districts in suburban Cook County to participate in a West Nile virus educational conference held at Brookfield Zoo.
- In an effort to reduce future human West Nile virus cases, Environmental Health inspectors surveyed homes to identify areas of standing water and other environmental hazards in areas affected by West Nile virus in 2002. Identification of these areas allowed for targeted health education efforts in 2003, which focused on teaching residents to take early prevention measures. CCDPH continued its "Fight the Bite" campaign in 2003.

Fight the Bite!



#### Day Care Facilities

Inspections Performed 402

#### Food Service Establishment/ Retail Food Stores

##### Intergovernmental Agreements

Communities Served 29  
Food Facilities 1,456  
Inspections Performed 2,200  
Plans Reviewed 23

##### Unincorporated Areas

Enforcement Actions 1  
Inspections Performed 575  
Licenses Issued 189  
Plans Reviewed 6

#### Lead Abatement

Compliance Letters Initiated 67  
Follow up inspections 100  
Total Inspections Performed 167

#### Manufactured Home Parks

Inspections Performed 74  
Licenses Issued 32

#### Nuisance Complaints

Complaints Received 70  
Inspections and Enforcement Actions 234

#### Swimming Pools and Spas

Inspections Performed 1,389  
Private Pool/Spa Plans Approved 45

#### Water Supplies

Analysis Opinions Rendered 833  
*Water Samples Collected*  
Non-community 545  
Private 15

#### Private Sewage Disposal Systems

Installation Inspections Performed 44  
Lot Surveys Performed 126  
Plans Processed 132  
Witnessed Percolation Tests Performed 29



#### Septic Tank Cleaners

Permits Issued 70  
Truck Inspections Performed 109

#### Tanning Facilities

Inspections Performed 150

#### Tobacco

Licenses Issued 79

#### Wells/Sewage Disposal Systems

*Abandoned Wells*  
Sealing Requests Received 264  
Wells Sealed 192

*Existing Non-community Wells*  
Surveys Performed 137

*New Wells*  
Inspections Performed 176  
Permits Issued 181

*Well/Septic System Mortgage Evaluations*  
Evaluations Requested 15  
Inspections Performed 11  
Water Samples Collected 14

...we achieved our goal:  
*We are more prepared today  
than ever before*



## Health Promotion



The Health Promotion Unit is dedicated to working in partnership with suburban Cook County communities and other CCDPH units to promote healthier lifestyles through awareness and education, programming and community development.

Unit programs are always changing and adapting to meet the needs of our communities, and our ability to create these programs is dependent on resources.

Health Promotion staff works with community partners to:

- Build and expand coalitions
- Determine assets and gaps in services
- Coordinate resources
- Provide resources and referrals
- Plan and implement appropriate programs

The unit holds educational workshops on topics such as:

- Healthy eating
- Exercise
- Chronic disease
- Reproductive/sexual health in both school and community settings



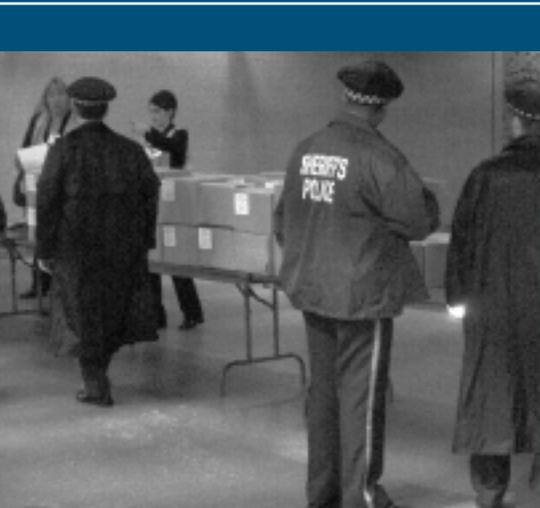
## HEALTH PROMOTION 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- The unit known as *Community and School Health Education* became the *Health Promotion Unit*. The new unit focuses on addressing chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity and cancer through education, programming and community development.
- Health Promotion staff established the South Suburban Regional Coalition to address obesity in south suburban Cook County.
- The unit distributed nearly 900 car seats to parents and caregivers and provided classes on the use and installation of car safety seats.



...we achieved our goal:  
*We are more prepared today  
than ever before*

## TOPOFF — Community Preparedness and Coordination Unit



It was all over the news. In May, 2003, CCDPH participated in the largest public health disaster drill ever executed. The exercise, entitled “TOPOFF2,” occurred May 12–16, and was intended to test how local, state and federal agencies respond to a weapons of mass destruction incident.

The scenario called for a fictitious dirty bomb explosion in Seattle, a plane crash at Chicago’s Midway Airport and a bomb explosion in suburban Cook County. CCDPH’s responsibility was to coordinate a regional response to a bioterrorist attack involving the release of pneumonic plague at Union Station, O’Hare Airport and the United Center.

During TOPOFF2, Public Health had to do what it already does well: identify and control the outbreak; medicate the exposed population; and inform the public of critical health information. The difference between real life and TOPOFF: *Public Health had to work with the idea that tens of thousands of people were infected with plague.*

TOPOFF2 exercise planning was managed through the newly formed Community Preparedness and Coordination Unit. The CPCU was created with the intent of preparing CCDPH commu-

nities to respond to a public health emergency or bioterrorism event, similar to events rehearsed in TOPOFF2.

The CCDPH Communicable Disease, Nursing and Communication Units worked with hospitals, health departments and municipalities to share and provide information during the incident. The Cook County Sheriff’s Emergency Management Agency along with the Sheriff’s Police and the County Medical Examiner became our partners in the event, helping to receive, transport and secure the Strategic National Stockpile, a national reserve of pharmaceuticals to be used in a large biological event.

One of the major goals for the CPCU is to work with local communities to develop an effective rapid response plan to emergency situations. The Village of Bridgeview made available the John A. Oremus Center to use as our dispensing site, along with the essential equipment, staff and volunteers to help prepare and operate our clinic.

TOPOFF2 was an exercise intended to help prepare CCDPH for a bioterrorist event and we achieved our goal: We are more prepared today than ever before. ■

*...our mission  
as a local health department is to  
improve our community's health*



## Operating Budget 2003



**Cook County Appropriations:**  
\$17,913,937

**Grants/Contracts/Service Fees:**  
\$24,173,853

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**TOTAL:** \$42,087,790





## Executive Staff



*Back (From left to right)*

Karen Lewandowski, R.N., M.S., Associate Administrator for Human Resources  
William Lewis, Director of Physical Plant  
Richard Scott III, M.A., M.S.W., Director of Prevention Services  
Sean McDermott, Director of Public Policy, Planning and Government Relations

*Front (From left to right)*

Noreen Lanahan, Director of Financial Control  
Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief Operating Officer  
Dorothy Lucas, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director

*Not Pictured:* Frank Barnes, Assistant Operating Officer



## Senior Staff



*Back (From left to right)*

Michael Vernon, Dr.Ph., Director of Infectious Disease  
Catherine Counard, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Medical Director, Communicable Disease  
Valerie Webb, M.P.H., Assistant Health Officer  
Thomas Varchmin, M.S., L.E.H.P., Director of Environmental Health  
Steven Seweryn, M.P.H., Director of Epidemiology  
Kitty Loewy, Director of Communications  
Ebony Lynch, M.P.H., Assistant Health Officer  
Sharon Perlman, D.D.S., M.P.H., Director of Dental Health  
James Bloyd, M.P.H., Assistant Health Officer

*Front (From left to right)*

Stephanie W. Smith, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Communicable Disease  
Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief Operating Officer  
Sandra Martell, R.N., M.S., Director of Integrated Health Support



**Cook County Board of Commissioners**

**John H. Stroger, Jr.**

*President*

Jerry Butler  
Forrest Claypool  
Earlean Collins  
John P. Daley  
Elizabeth Ann Doody Gorman  
Gregg Goslin  
Carl R. Hansen  
Roberto Maldonado

Joseph Mario Moreno  
Joan P. Murphy  
Anthony J. Peraica  
Mike Quigley  
Peter N. Silvestri  
Deborah Sims  
Bobbie L. Steele  
Larry Suffredin

**Cook County Bureau of Health Services**

**Ruth M. Rothstein**

*Chief*

Ambulatory and Community  
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1900 Polk St. Rm. 201  
Chicago, IL 60612  
312 633 8076

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital  
of Cook County  
1835 W. Harrison St.  
Chicago, IL 60612  
312 633 6000

Cermak Health Services  
of Cook County  
2800 S. California Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
773 890 9300

Oak Forest Hospital  
of Cook County  
15900 S. Cicero Ave.  
Oak Forest, IL 60452  
708 687 7200

Cook County Department  
of Public Health  
1010 Lake St.  
Oak Park, IL 60301  
708 492 2000

Provident Hospital  
of Cook County  
500 E. 51st St.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
312 572 2000

The Ruth M. Rothstein  
Core Center of Cook County  
2020 W. Harrison St.  
Chicago, IL 60612  
312 572 4500

*We Bring Health **CARE** to Your Community*